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film, The Mechanic. In this drama, Bobby might actually be able to blow his cleancut-boy image forever. He plays a babyfaced (of course) homicidal maniac!

This could well be the chance Bobby's been waiting for—but in the meantime David's hoping he won't have to wait quite as long as his fellow idol did. Whereas Bobby's first love is music, David's is acting.

Still, no matter how much he loves his music, Bobby is anxious to at last break out of his teen-idol role. And this film could be his big chance. On the other hand, Bobby's popularity lies mainly with the pre-teen segment of the population. Many of these nymphets may not be allowed to see a film of this type; we expect that many others will be horrified and simply won't accept their hero as a bad guy. It's a drastic risk that Bobby's running, but everyone respects his bravery in trying to make the break and in attempting to make a name for himself as a serious dramatic actor.

David shouldn't meet with such opposition in his future. The Partridge Family is popular with folks of all ages. And David, with his elfin good looks and his frailness, is just the kind of fellow any woman—regardless of age—would like to mother. Middleaged moms identify with David as well as their nubile daughters, though for different reasons. And he should be able to make the jump from teen star to just plain star without too much trouble.

Still, for the time being, David is contenting himself with playing Keith Partridge, doing concerts and making records, and keeping his pre-pubescent fans happy—and in love. David would never put down his loyal young ladies. They've made him what he is today, and he, as well as Bobby, is greatly appreciative of all the girls who adore him.

It would be a pleasure to see both David and Bobby escape from the "teen idol" syndrome, and all who come into contact with these boys wish them well. For they are both totally unspoiled by their stardom and will no doubt remain so. They work hard to keep their fans happy, smile obligingly for the cameras, grant interviews with almost amazing grace. Who could help but wish them well?

David is only 21; Bobby is several years older. But both are still young enough to be able to follow careers as actors without too much trouble, if only people give them a chance instead of immediately dismissing them by saying those hated words, "Teen idol!"

After all, men like Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra, who are extremely respected in their own right today, started out as totems of the tempestuous teens. All they needed was the chance to prove their talent. We think that's all David and Bobby need. And want.

But it is David who stands the better chance because now, before he gets too caught up in the teen idol syndrome, he is consciously attempting to break that mold. He can see what a rough time Bobby has had.

MIKE CONNORS (continued from page 35)

sportswoman and plays a pretty good game of golf. She also enjoys water skiing and snow skiing. She is particularly concerned about protecting her children from people who will try and use them because they are the children of a famous television star.

"I have told my children that some people are totally deceitful for reasons of their own," Mike says. "I have said that such people will come into their lives, seeming to like them tremendously but eventually taking advantage of them." He concurs with Mary Lou's theories on child raising and the two of them try very hard to "do the right thing by our kids—if that's possible at this point, I'm not sure that it ever is."

Mike is aware that a large majority of his audience is female and that's another reason why he feels particularly concerned about the plight of the housewife in today's society. He tries to be as sympathetic to Mary Lou's needs and feelings about her role as his wife as he expects her to be to his problems.

Mike is not one of those husbands who believes in separate vacations and, in fact, thinks they spell the beginning of the end for any marriage. Whatever time he can get away from the *Mannix* set, he spends with his family and wouldn't think of doing it any other way.

Mike remembers fondly the advice given him by his father who died when the actor was only 16 years old. "Son," his father said, "when you marry, remember that mutual respect is as important as love in a marriage." He also told Mike that it takes a lot more effort to think of your wife's happiness first. And that it wasn't easy for a man to be unselfish and it wasn't easy for a wife either. But if both worked together to try and think of the other first, pretty soon you both begin thinking alike.

Mike feels that this is what has happened in his marriage to Mary Lou. And it's also why Mary Lou Connors will not sit around with a drink in her hand while waiting for Mike to come home at night. She knows that her husband loves and respects her too much to give him any cause to feel disappointed in her. So, despite the sometimes frustrating waiting, Mary Lou makes every effort to keep busy. She carefully plans dinner so that everything will be just as Mike likes it. She makes sure that the two of them have some time alone and that all his time at home is not monopolized by the children. Of course, she doesn't want to deny the children their father, but by the same token, she wants a little time to herself with her husband. This is something she thinks is really important in any marriage and too many women lose sight of it after a few years and a couple of kids.

After 22 years of marital bliss, Mary Lou Connors is still injecting her marriage with a daily dose of romance—instead of a daily dose of alcohol. More women, she thinks, ought to do the same.